

72. **Empidonax virescens.** ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Breeds over the low ground of both states, and ranges up the river valleys, rarely into the mountains. I have found it in Center County nesting in the same ravine with such species as the Canada Warbler and Solitary Vireo. Scarce in Cape May Co., N. J. Data on twenty-six nests give: average set, 3 (2); average date, June 6 (May 30–July 16).

73. **Empidonax minimus.** LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Breeds commonly over the northern half of New Jersey and the mountainous parts of Pennsylvania south to Berks and Center Counties and rarely to Montgomery. Data on twenty-one nests give: average set, 4 (3); average date May 30 (May 25–June 27).

(To be concluded.)

UNCOLORED PRINTS FROM HAVELL'S ENGRAVINGS OF AUDUBON'S 'BIRDS OF AMERICA'.

BY HARRY HARRIS.

Plates II and III.

EIGHT uncolored prints of Audubon's folio plates have lately come into the writer's possession, and their examination has led to a closer study of the work of the engraver. A careful comparison of the prints with the corresponding published issues has brought out a few points which may prove of interest, especially as the comparatively scant reference to Robert Havell Jr. found in the literature of American Ornithology perhaps indicates that complete recognition has not been given this master engraver for his part in immortalizing the genius of Audubon.

Mr. George Alfred Williams of Summit, N. J., has lately said,¹ in a very illuminating review of Havell's career, that to the genius of this man is due much of the extraordinary artistic success which

¹ Williams, George Alfred. Robert Havell, Junior, Engraver of Audubon's "The Birds of America." *The Print-Collector's Quarterly*. October, 1916. Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston.

attended the publication of the drawings of the great naturalist and that without the coöperation of a talent capable of the task of faithful, intelligent, and artistic reproduction, the work would have failed of its ultimate purpose.

Audubon at first entrusted the engraving of his plates to W. H. Lizars, one of the greatest engravers of bird-portraits of his time. His results however did not satisfy Audubon's demands, and after five plates had been done the work was taken from his hands and given over to Robert Havell Jr., of London. This Havell, the last of a long line of artists and workers in copper-plate, was the sole engraver of all the Audubon plates, save the five referred to, and three of these were later retouched by him. That the elder Havell engraved any of the plates is clearly disproved in the article above quoted.

Havell's work at all times fully met the rigid requirements of Audubon, who on more than one occasion expressed with enthusiasm his entire satisfaction in the quality of Havell's engraving.

Late in 1838, after the last part of 'The Birds of America' had issued and when Havell was dismantling his plant preparatory to removal to America, he wrote to Audubon for instructions relative to the manner of packing "five perfect sets" and certain "loose sets." This reference to loose sets presumably included all the trial proofs worthy of preservation, together with all other prints that had accumulated during the twelve years of work, and, for one reason or another, had not been colored. Audubon's reply¹ to this inquiry, under date of February 20, 1839, indicated that he did not know the nature of these loose sets but he states particularly that he wanted them saved. A prolonged search of all available sources of information has failed to disclose another reference to these loose sets. There is no reasonable doubt, however, that they were *all* shipped to Audubon, since those that have been preserved to the present day are directly traceable to him or his descendants. No record of their number seems to have been kept by either Audubon or Havell. I am informed by Mr. Williams that the only prints brought to this country by Havell, aside from the superb set colored

¹ Dean, Ruthven. The Copper-Plates of the Folio Edition of Audubon's 'Birds of America,' With a Brief Sketch of the Engravers. Auk, Vol. XXV, No. 4, 1908.



FROM THE COLORED PLATE.

